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AUTHOR
KOBAYASHI DAIKI

スカイブルー

第1話 空色エンカウンター

RAW PROVIDER: KATSUDON
TRANSLATOR: GEKSRI
PROOFREADER: JUUBUN
CLEANER/REDRAW: ZACK
TYPESETTER: VONSFIELD

BROUGHT TO
YOU BY
Japanzai

WHO?

WHO...?
WHO DID IT?
It was me!

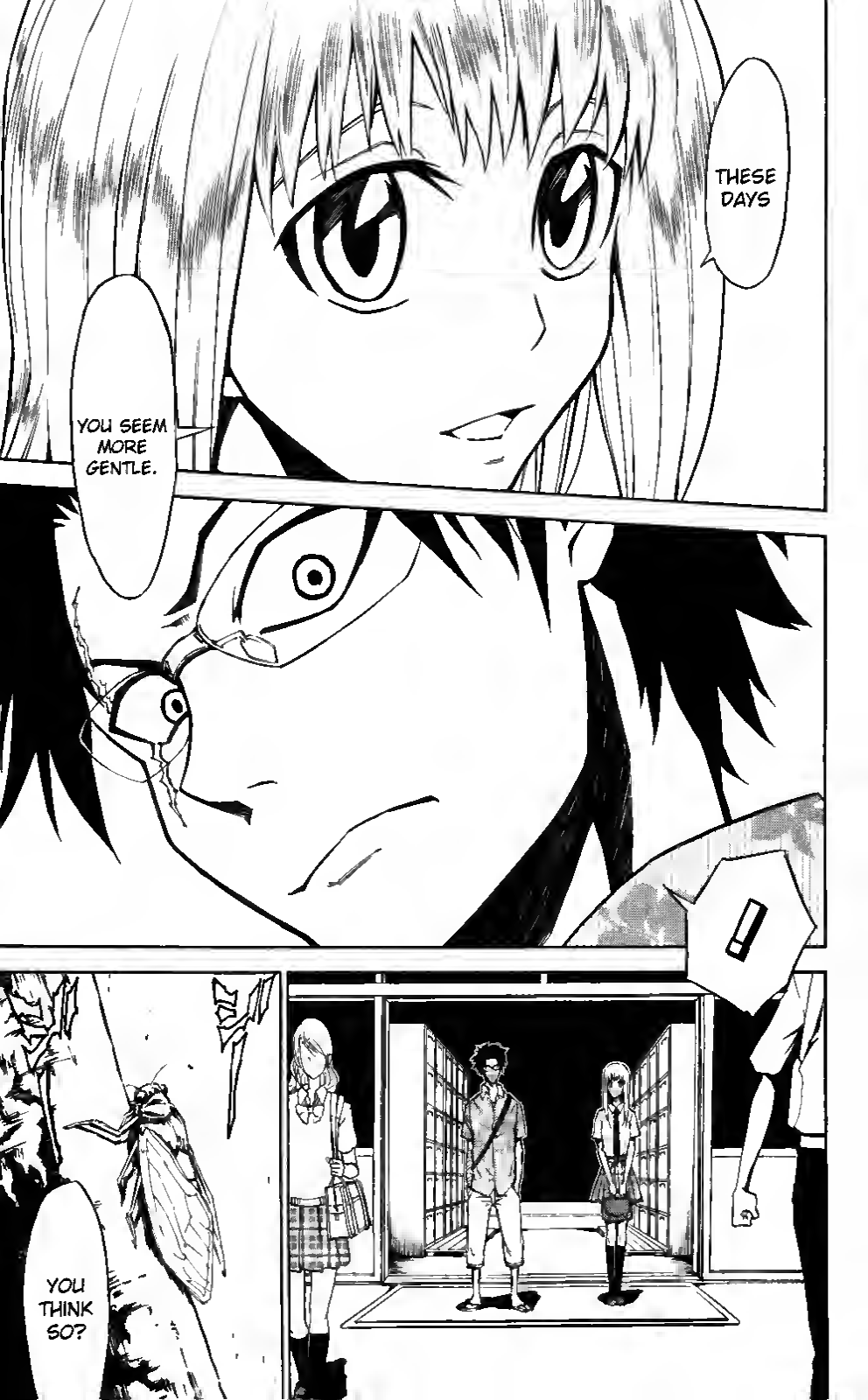
WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?
!?
KYA HA HA
What do you mean?
Kazami Amaharu
I am
ME.

And also
ME.
Kazami Amaharu.

.....
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?
ArGGhh!
Tick
Tick
FIVE YEARS, HUH...
Tick
Tick
Tick

ストロベリーサンダー

STRAWBERRY THUNDER

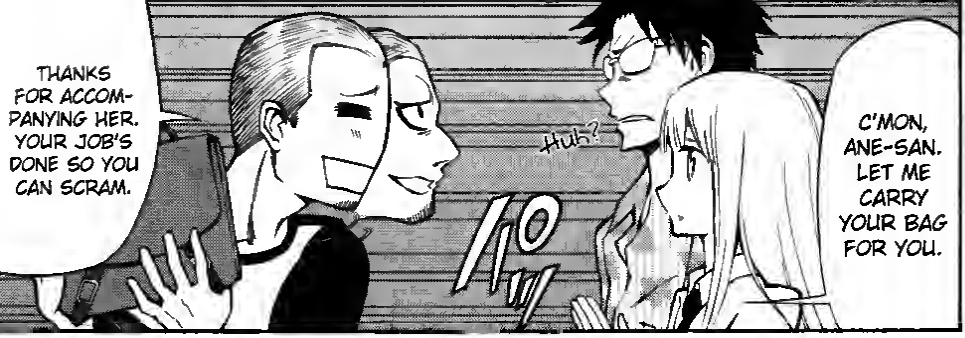

THESE DAYS
YOU SEEM MORE GENTLE.
!
YOU THINK SO?

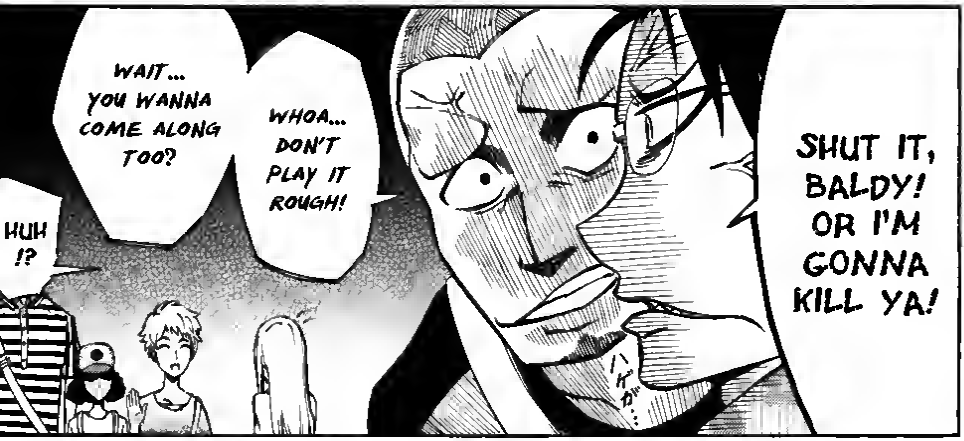
THE SEASON...
IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE THE FIGHT WITH ASH GRAY.
I GUESS BECAUSE IT'S JUST WAY TOO HOT FOR ME.
AND THE NOISY CICADAS.
YOU THINK SO?
THE CICADAS ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR LIFE.
HAS TURNED TO MID-SUMMER.
DAMMIT! AFTER THE CLOSING CEREMONY TOMORROW, I'VE GOT MAKE-UP CLASSES INSTEAD OF SUMMER BREAK. I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.
APPARE-KUN, THAT'S BECAUSE
YOU'D BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A LONG TIME
YOUR BROTHER'S STILL IN THE HOSPITAL, RIGHT?
YEAH.
BUT RECENTLY HE'S MUCH BETTER.
HE OFTEN SMILES WHILE CHECKING OUT FLIERS FROM ELECTRIC APPLIANCE STORES.
REALLY?
Let's talk about electric stuff!
THAT'S PROBABLY THE SHIFTY-EYED GUY, NOT HER BROTHER.

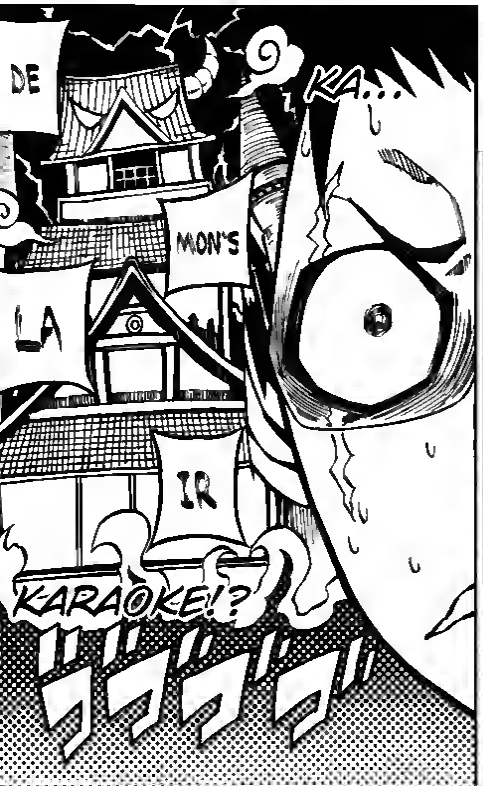
ERR...
?
YOU KNOW ... THAT ...
I DON'T MEAN TO BUTT INTO YOUR FAMILY'S AFFAIR,
BUT IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED... I MEAN... THAT IS...
YOU TELL ME... 'KAY?
.....
OKAY.
THESE DAYS
YOU SEEM MORE GENTLE
YOU ...
YOU THINK SO? I GUESS BECAUSE IT'S JUST WAY TOO HOT FOR ME.
HEY, DIDN'T WE TALK ABOUT THIS BEFORE?

ANE-SAN, THANKS FOR COMING.

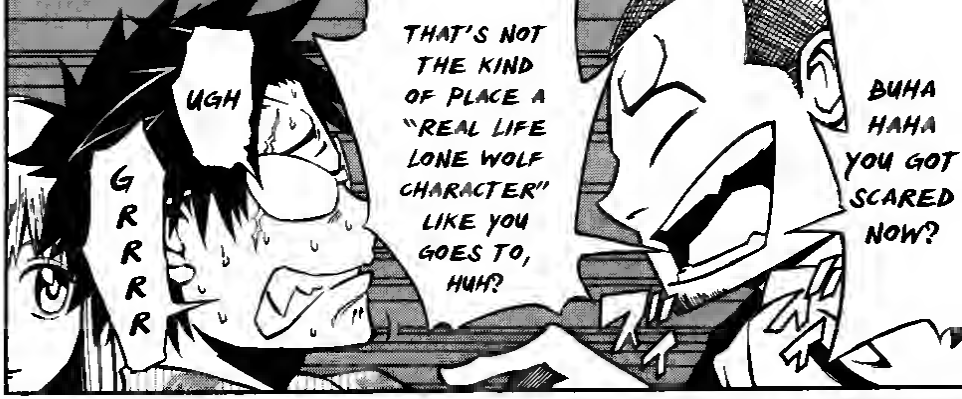
BUNCH OF IDIOTS.
.....

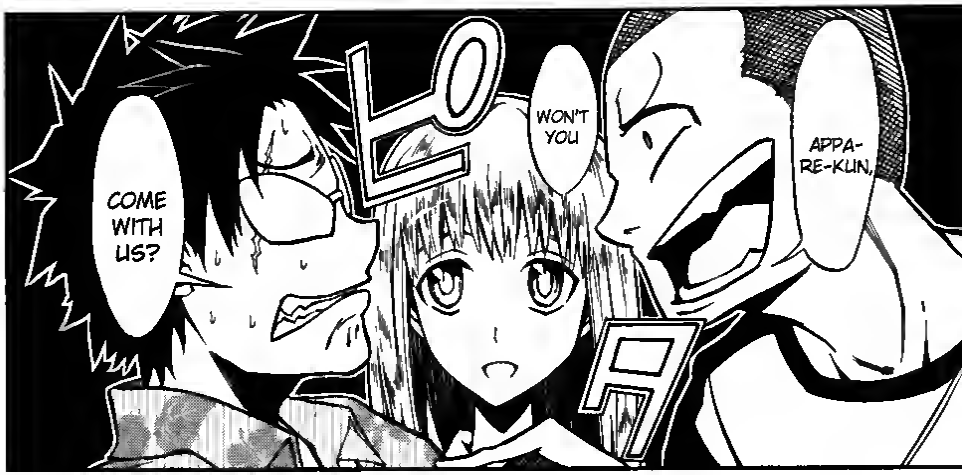

THANKS FOR ACCOMPANYING HER. YOUR JOB'S DONE SO YOU CAN SCRAM.
Huh?
C'MON, ANE-SAN. LET ME CARRY YOUR BAG FOR YOU.


WAIT... YOU WANNA COME ALONG TOO?
WHOA... DON'T PLAY IT ROUGH!
HUH !?
SHUT IT, BALDY! OR I'M GONNA KILL YA!


DE
KA...
MON'S
LA
IR
KARAOKE!?

KARA-OKE.
!!?


UGH
GRRRR
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF PLACE A "REAL LIFE LONE WOLF CHARACTER" LIKE YOU GOES TO, HUH?
BUHA HAHA YOU GOT SCARED NOW?


LO
A
COME WITH US?
WON'T YOU
APPA-RE-KUN,

IF YOU COME WITH US, APPARE-KUN,
I'M SURE
THE MORE THE MER-RIER.

ANE-SAN?

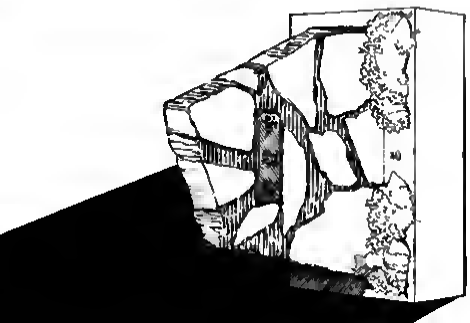
.....
IT WILL BE FUN.

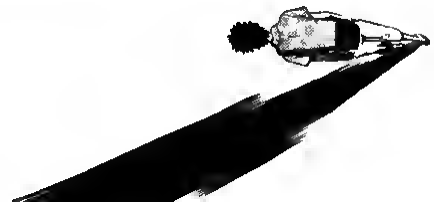
I'LL...
I...
NO...
I'LL GO..
THEN
I SEE
YOU CAN'T JOIN US.
I BETTER NOT.
I'VE GOT A THING TO DO SOME-WHERE ELSE.
SOR-RY
NO...

ガタン
ガタン
ガタン
ガタン
ガタン
APPARE-
KUN,

I ALSO HAVE SUMMER STUDIES TO DO.
SO,
SEE YOU AT SCHOOL.
鬼頭駅
onigashira statio

I HAVEN'T BEEN TO MY HOME-TOWN FOR FOUR MONTHS NOW.
FLO-WERS ...
MAYBE NOT.





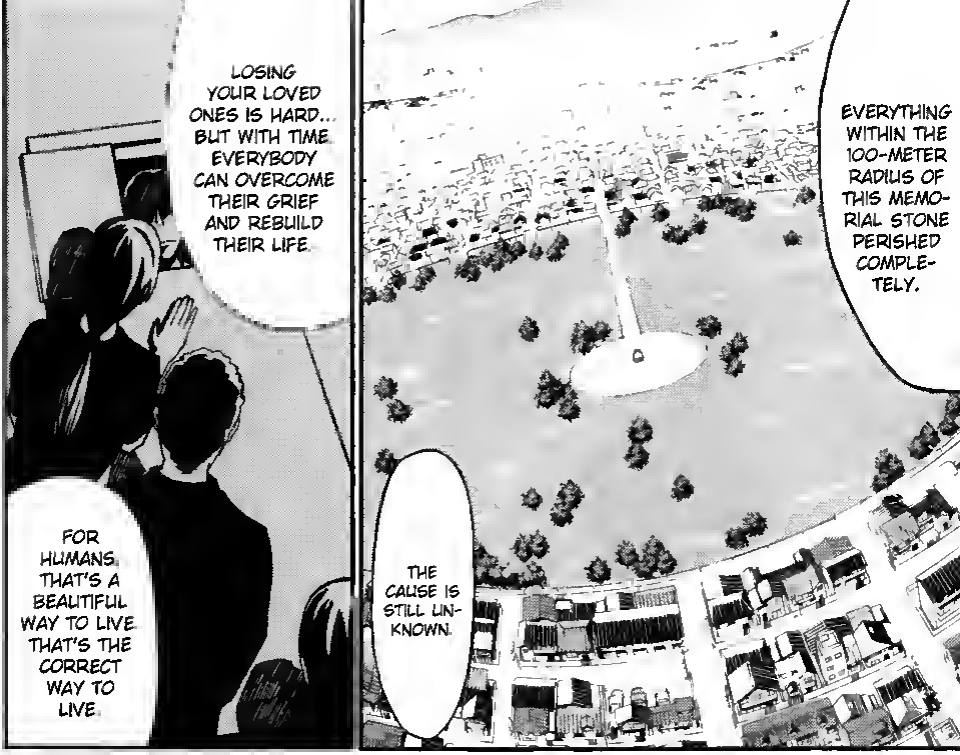
UNTIL NOW
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT MY FAMILY'S DEATH.
EVEN WITH THE MEMORIAL STONE THERE,
MEMORIAL
IT STILL DOESN'T FEEL REAL.

I ACTUALLY KNOW IT, BUT I PRETENDED NOT TO.
MY CURRENT LIFE IS UNBELIEVABLY CALM.
YOU SEEM MORE GENTLE.
THESE DAYS
MAIKA,
MOTHER,
FATHER,

I FINALLY CRIED FOR YOU RECENTLY.
IT TOOK ME FIVE YEARS ...
BUT FROM NOW ON, I'LL TRY TO FORGET THE PAST BIT BY BIT.
I WANT TO LIVE MY LIFE TO THE FULLEST.
THIS IS FOR THE BEST ...

THIS...
IS FOR THE BEST, RIGHT?

IT WAS TRULY A TRAGIC DISASTER.
ZERO CASUAL-TIES.
325 PEOPLE DIED.

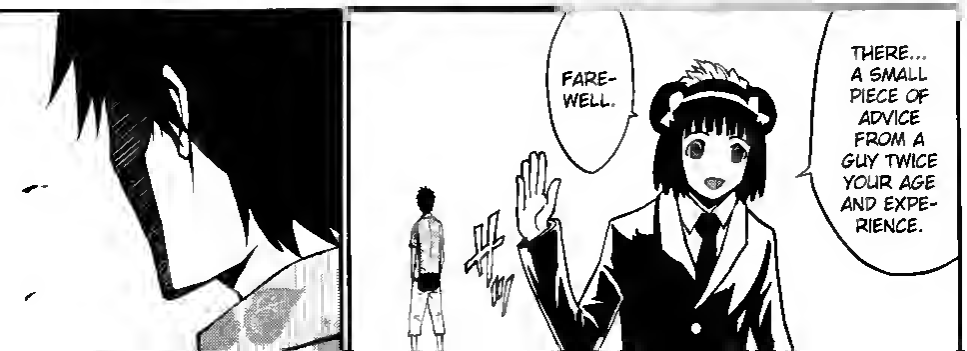

LOSING YOUR LOVED ONES IS HARD... BUT WITH TIME, EVERYBODY CAN OVERCOME THEIR GRIEF AND REBUILD THEIR LIFE.
FOR HUMANS, THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO LIVE. THAT'S THE CORRECT WAY TO LIVE.
EVERYTHING WITHIN THE 100-METER RADIUS OF THIS MEMORIAL STONE PERISHED COMPLETELY.
THE CAUSE IS STILL UNKNOWN.

DIFFERENT FOLKS, DIFFERENT STROKES. BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOME PEOPLE WHO CAN'T LIVE THAT WAY.
HOWEVER, THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS.

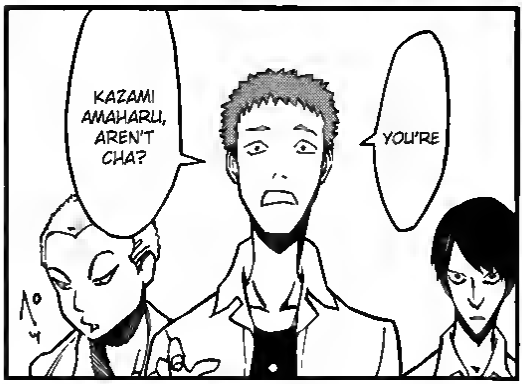
IS IT BECAUSE YOU STILL CAN'T FULLY ACCEPT YOUR FAMILY'S TRAGIC DEATH?
YOU DIDN'T BUY ANY FLOWERS ON YOUR WAY HERE.

IF SO, THEN YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO DO SO HERE AND NOW.
EMBRACE THAT RESTLESSNESS YOU FEEL IN YOUR HEART.

YOUNG MAN...
TAKE YOUR TIME TO THINK A LOT!
BECAUSE WHEN YOU FINALLY JOIN SOCIETY, YOU WON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO DO SO!


THERE... A SMALL PIECE OF ADVICE FROM A GUY TWICE YOUR AGE AND EXPERIENCE.
FAREWELL.

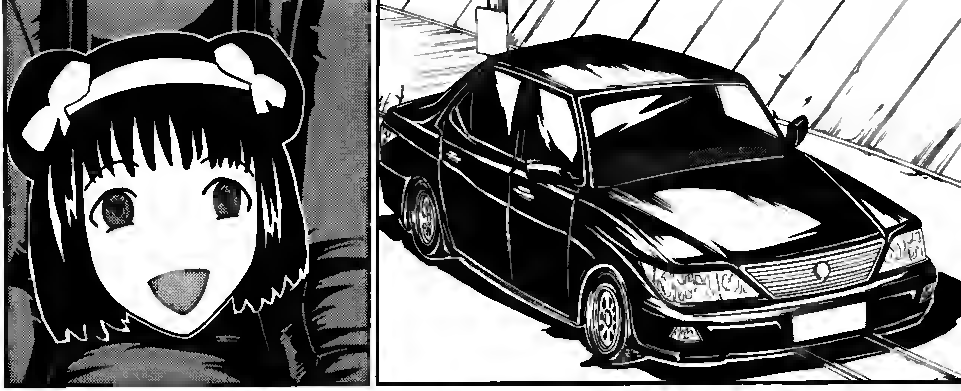
PISS OFF!! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT !?
HOW DARE HE LECTURE ME LIKE THAT!?
A NEW KIND OF FETISH !?
I SHO- ULD'VE GIVEN HIM THE TASTE OF MY FIST!!

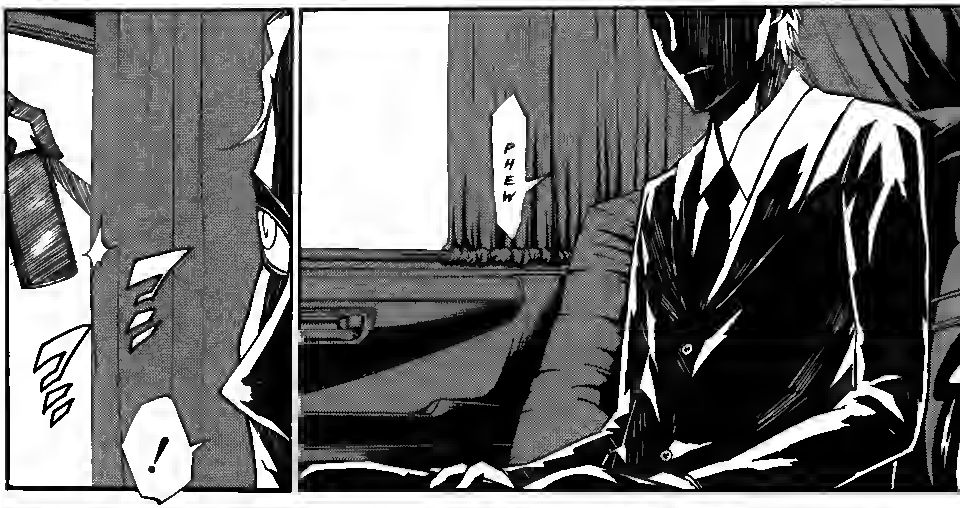

KAZAMI AMAHARU, AREN'T CHA?
YOU'RE

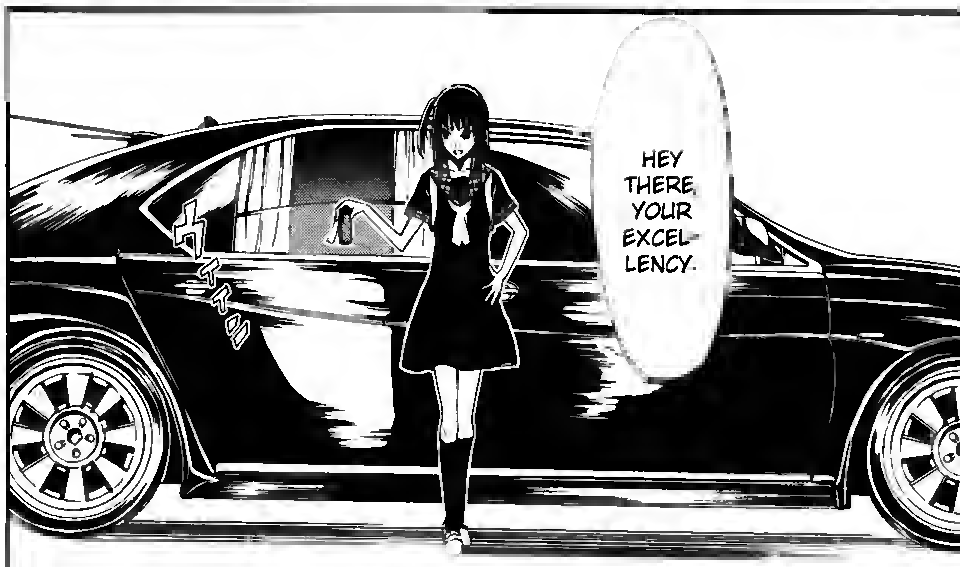
WHAT?
TCH. MAYBE I SHOULD GET MYSELF A MASK TOO.

OH, THAT'S HIM.
THAT'S HIM?
!

GET READY! JONATHAN WANTS YOU.
HUUUH
HA HA HA
SAY THAT AGAIN !?

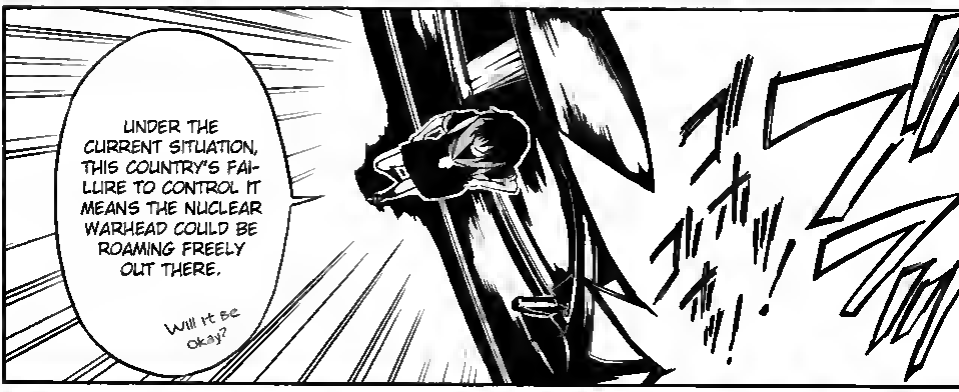


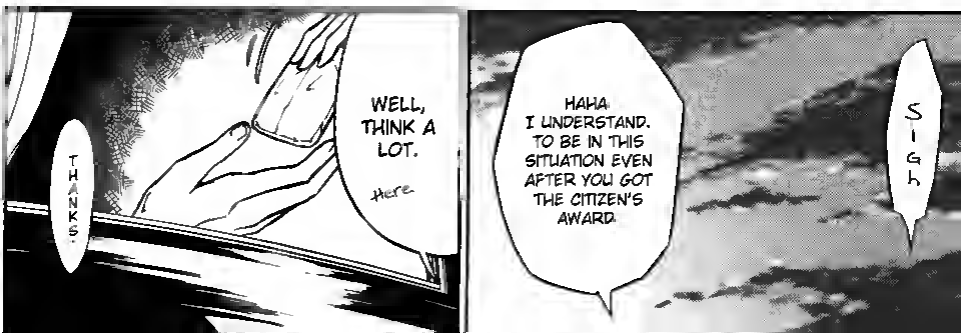

PHEW
!


HEY THERE, YOUR EXCEL-LENCY.

THE FESTIVITIES WILL START FROM NOW ON.
there for you
THANKS
ARE YOU OKAY? FEELING TIRED?
IT'S YOU...
UNKNOWN? WHAT ABOUT THE TRACKING DEVICE?
IT WAS CUT RIGHT AFTER THE VIDEO WAS SENT
CUT?
YES I MEAN ...
IT'S BEEN CONFIRMED THAT IT ENTERED THE COUNTRY SIX HOURS AGO.
BUT SINCE THEN THE LOCATION IS UNKNOWN
.....

CUT STRAIGHT IN THE MIDDLE.

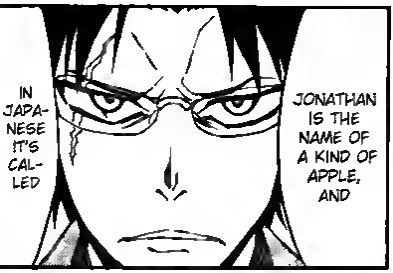

UNDER THE CURRENT SITUATION, THIS COUNTRY'S FAILURE TO CONTROL IT MEANS THE NUCLEAR WARHEAD COULD BE ROAMING FREELY OUT THERE.
Will it be okay?
ゴゴゴゴ!!!

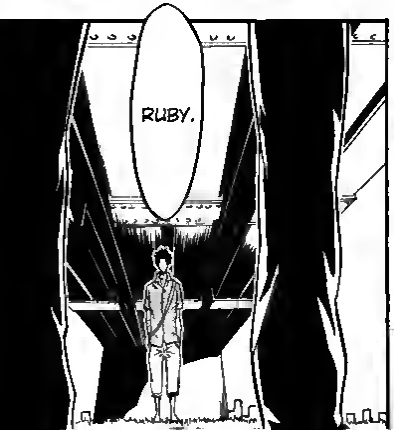

SIGH
HAHA I UNDERSTAND. TO BE IN THIS SITUATION EVEN AFTER YOU GOT THE CITIZEN'S AWARD.
WELL, THINK A LOT.
there.
THANKS.

THE BEGINNING OF THE FUTURE.
PROTECTING THE CITIZEN'S LIFE
THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.
TO PONDER OVER THE CITIZENS' PROBLEMS?
ISN'T IT THE CHIEF'S JOB
YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE PRIME MINISTER.
YOU'RE RIGHT.

I'M SURE WE'LL MANAGE TO DO EVERYTHING WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF SMART FOLKS LIKE YOURSELF.
YOU GOT IT.
IT'S WONDERFUL WHEN THE STAKEHOLDERS COOPERATE WELL, RIGHT?
BUT AS THE HEAD OF THE COUNTRY, DON'T YOU THINK YOU HAVE A BETTER CHOICE FOR A MASK?
I THOUGHT IT'D BE FUNNY.
YOU SEE ME LAUGHING?
AH, THAT'S RIGHT.
YOUR EXCELLENCY, DO YOU KNOW OF "JONATHAN"?
HE'S A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT WHO'S TAKEN OVER THE DELINQUENT GROUPS HERE IN THE PAST YEAR...
THAT'S MOST LIKELY HIS NICKNAME THOUGH.
HE WENT MISSING FOR A WHILE, BUT RECENTLY HE SEEMS TO HAVE COME BACK.

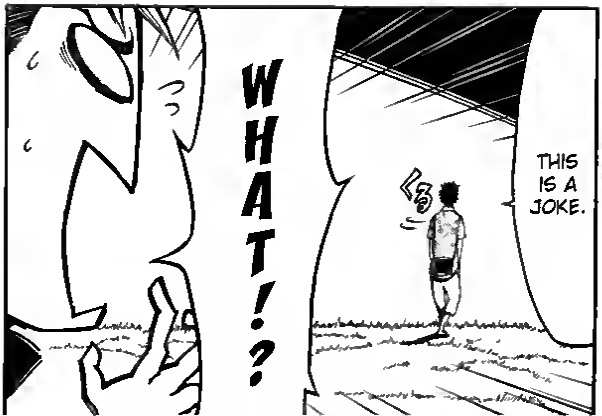
WHY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT IT?

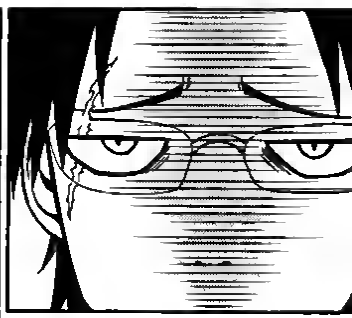

IN JAPANESE IT'S CALLED
JONATHAN IS THE NAME OF A KIND OF APPLE, AND


RUBY.

WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!
WELL, I'M JUST CURIOUS.
Uh, I was so scared

KAZAMI AMAHARU.
YOU'RE HERE.


WHAT!?
THIS IS A JOKE.



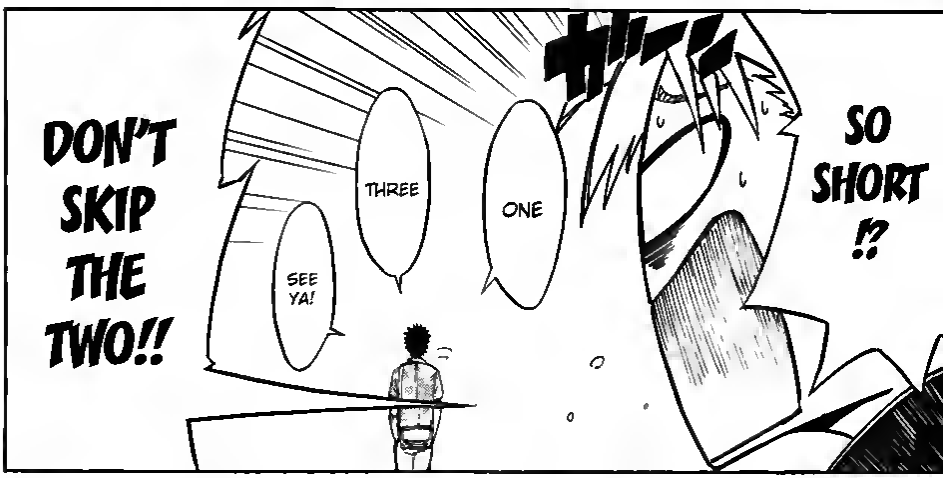
HOLD IT THERE! I'M NOT A JOKE!
I'M THE "NIDA-IME"!
BEHOLD! ALL THE GUYS HERE ARE MY UNDERLINGS!

Leave it to Daddy I'll even toss in the after-care (make him disappear) after his death. All in service
HAHAHA
Daddy I want you to kill this guy for me.
YEAH RIGHT. YOU INHERITED THAT FROM YOUR DADDY.
I'M NOT SOME KIND OF RICH KID WHO GOT HIS POWER THROUGH HIS PARENTS' MONEY.
YOU'RE WRONG!

COULD YOU PLEASE LISTEN TO ME?
I SAID LISTEN TO ME!
LISTEN TO ME!
HEY!!
I'M NOT THAT KIND OF NIDAIME! I'M THE NIDAIME, JONATH...

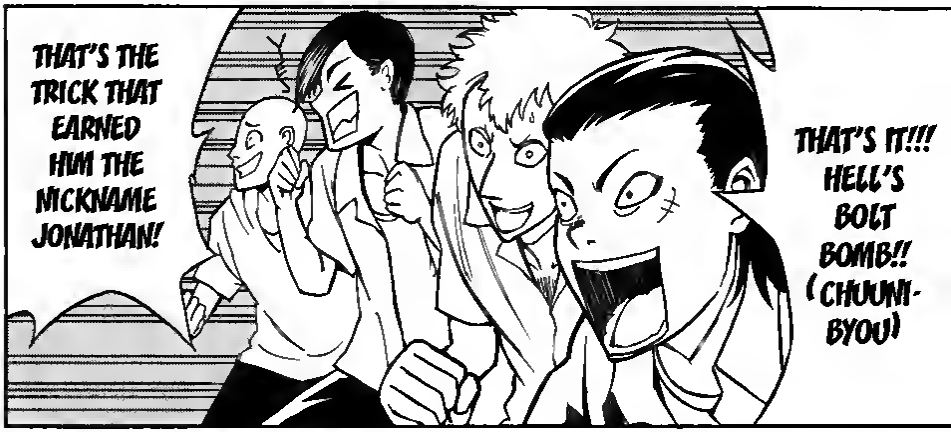
WELL, MY NAME'S TOYONO ...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

FINE. I'LL LISTEN TO YOU. BUT I'LL ONLY GIVE YOU
THREE SECONDS.
What a pain!
TCH

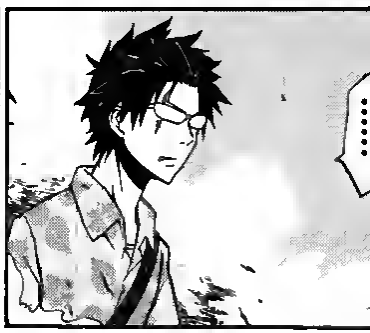

DON'T SKIP THE TWO!!
SEE YA!
THREE
ONE
SO SHORT !?

TO LOOK THIS WAY !!
I'M TELLING YOU
!?
DAMN YOU!

THAT...


THAT'S THE TRICK THAT EARNED HIM THE NICKNAME JONATHAN!
THAT'S IT!!! HELL'S BOLT BOMB!! (CHUUNI-BYOU)

THIS IS THE LIGHTNING BOLT POWER OF THE NIDAIME JONATHAN TOYONO!
HAHAHA. THAT SHOCKED YA?

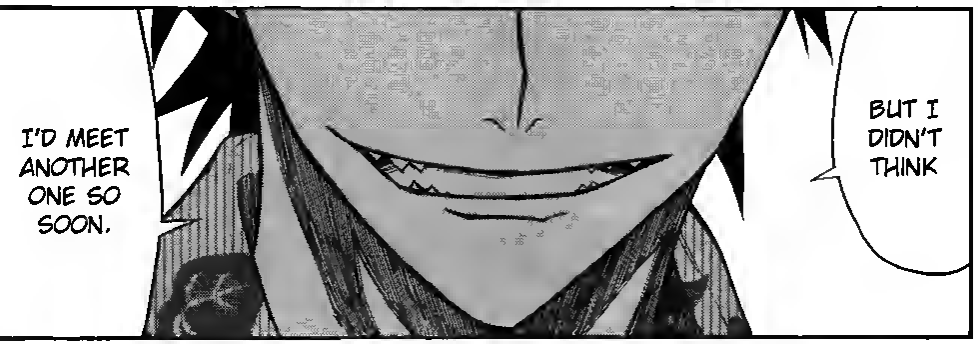

.....

YES!?
HEY!!
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
DO YOU HAVE IT
YOU HAVE IT TOO?
INSIDE YOU?

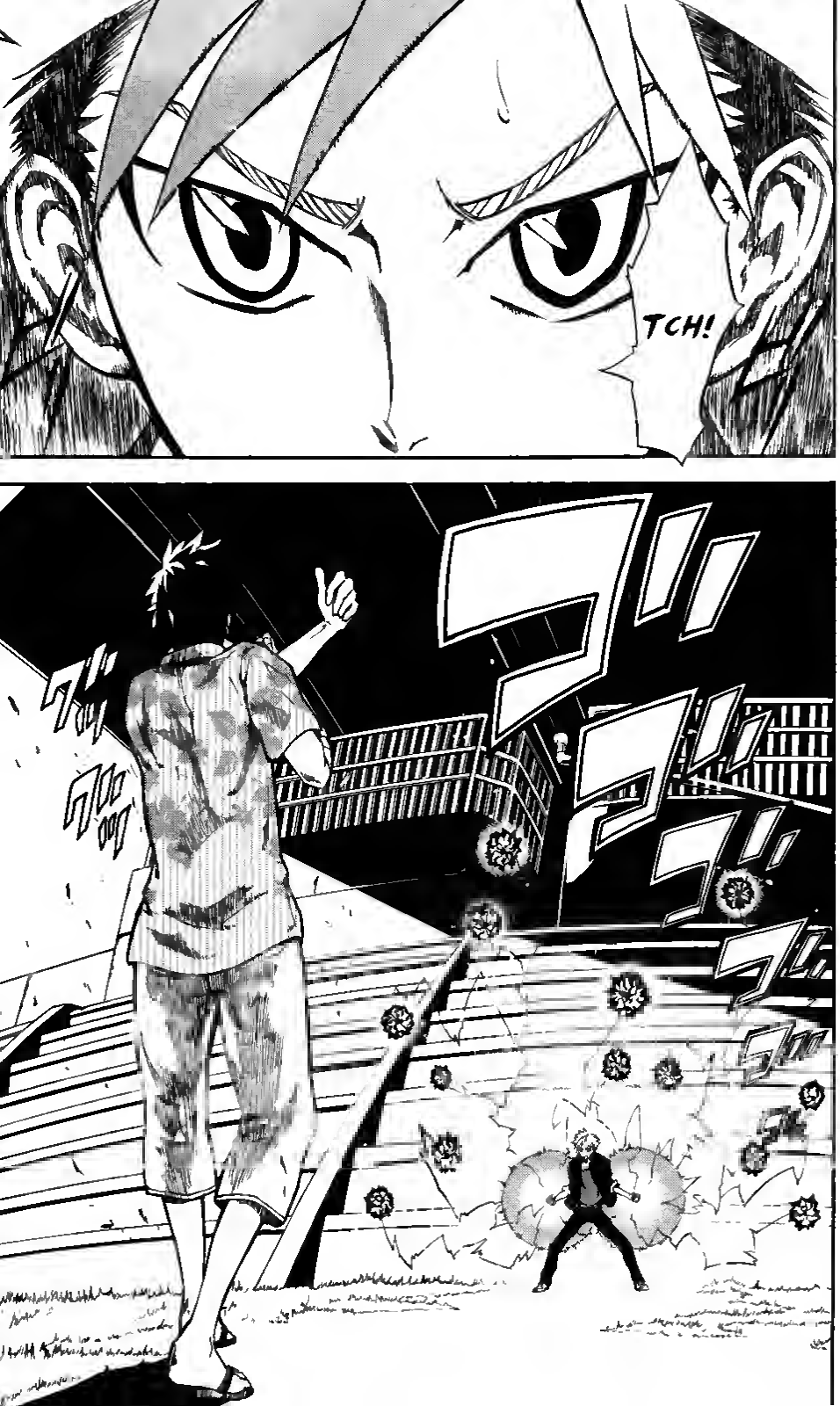
.....
STR...
!
STRAWBERRY!!
Obliging the summon
Drum rolls dadada-daadaa
Paa
Paa

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!!
THAT'S IT!! THE STRAWBERRY MODE!!
THE PREVIOUS JONATHAN NEVER LOST ANY FIGHTS. BUT HE WAS DEFEATED WITH A SINGLE STROKE. YOU DID IT, DIDN'T YOU?
I KNEW ABOUT THE "REAL LIFE COMBAT CHARACTER" !!
IT'S A DUEL, KAZAMI AMAHARU!
THEN IF I CAN KNOCK YOU DOWN, I CAN PROUDLY REIGN AS THE NIOAIME.

I EXPECTED OTHERS TO BE OUT THERE...
SKY BLUE AND ASH GRAY...


I'D MEET ANOTHER ONE SO SOON.
BUT I DIDN'T THINK

I SERIOUSLY WANT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT YOU REALLY ARE!
HAH!
I WASN'T IN THE MOOD FOR A FIGHT...
BUT OKAY, I'LL BE YOUR SPARRING PARTNER.
!
YEAH!
HOWEVER ...
I DON'T GET THIS WHOLE KIDAIME BUSINESS,
BE VERY PREPARED !!
BUT I HATE THE NAME SO MUCH THAT I'M READY TO KILL YOU, LITTLE STRAWBERRY-CHAN!


TCH!